

BARNARD CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health.

for the year

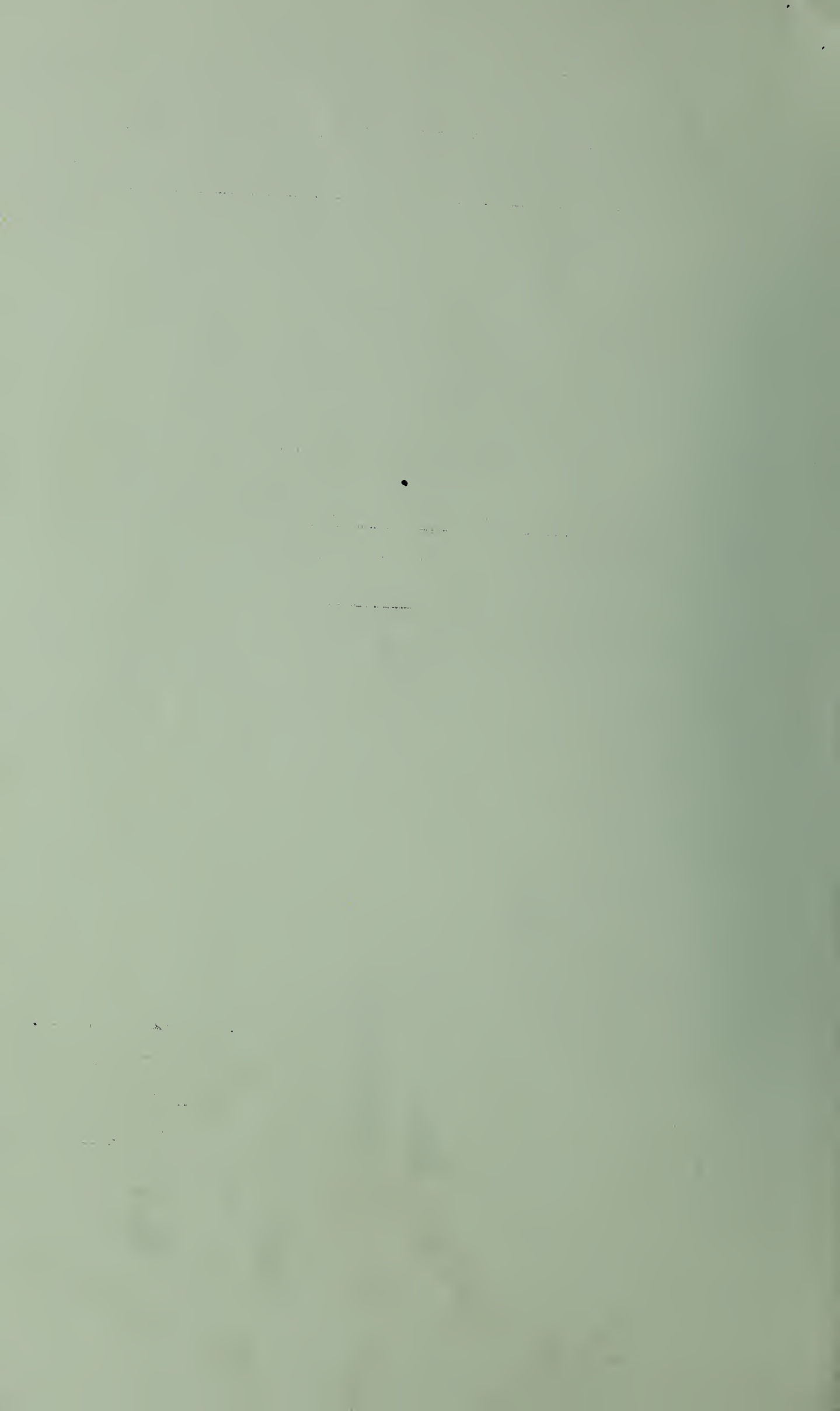
1952.

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

Assistant School Medical Officer

12th September, 1953.



Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Rutter & Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1952.

There was a slight increase in the number of live-births during the year, there being 70 compared with 66 last year and 65 in the previous year. Deaths from all causes amounted to 98 compared with 84 in the previous year, and 72 in 1950. I am pleased to state there were no deaths of infants aged under one year in the area and the general health of the community appeared to be satisfactory.

Local Industries.:- These are mainly concerned with agriculture, but the factory operated by Messrs. Glaxo Laboratories Limited, in Harmire Road, for the production of Penicillin, now affords employment for a large number of persons resident in the Urban and Rural Districts. The total number of persons employed at this factory at the end of the year was approximately 566 persons.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.:- The Report of the Consulting Engineers on the borehole near Mount Pleasant Reservoir was received in August and indicated that although the yield would probably be ample the water contained manganese which would involve the Council in heavy costs for the necessary treatment plant.

A further report was received suggesting the sinking of a new borehole on another site.

Due to the urgent necessity of obtaining a satisfactory water supply during periods of shortage negotiations were commenced with the Tees Valley Water Board for the supply of water in bulk during periods of shortage and with a view to the possibility of amalgamation with the Board.

The negotiations were successful and a bulk supply from the Tees Valley Water Board mains was made available to the Urban District by the end of the year.

The question of amalgamation has not yet been fully investigated.

Due to the dry weather conditions during the summer months it was found necessary to curtail the supply of water to the town at night from June to late September.

During the remainder of the year the yield from the springs and R.A.F. Borehole was sufficient to provide a good continuous supply.

Eight samples of water were sent for bacteriological examination. Three of these were in Class I, four in Class II and one in Class III. These results indicate a satisfactory supply, but evidence has shown in the past that the supply is liable to contamination by surface drainage, particularly after heavy rainfall.

Three samples of water for chemical analysis were taken, one from each spring and one from the water mains. These samples proved satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.:- No reports of fouling or pollution of any water-courses within the area were received during the year. Inspection is carried out by officials of the Wear and Tees River Board and this Council.

Refuse Tip.:- Agreement was reached during the year for the purchase of 11.893 acres of additional land for tipping. The land purchased will allow for the tip to extend westwards where it will be further removed from the highway.

Small sections of the additional land will be taken as the tipping face advances.

The remainder of the land is let for grazing.

The east end of the present tip which is filled to finished level, is being covered with a layer of earth which will be levelled and brought back into cultivation.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.- Work on the alterations to the Sewage Disposal Works, with a view to the treatment of a certain amount of penicillin effluent from the Glaxo Laboratories Factory, on an experimental basis was completed in September.

Officials of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research commenced the investigation into the treatment of spent metabolite at the sewage works on 29th October. The investigation will be carried on over a prolonged period and was still proceeding at the end of the year.

Closet Accommodation.- Three privies were converted to the water carriage system with the drainage treated in private tanks.

Provision has been made for the other two privies remaining in the town to be converted into water carriage and connected into these tanks.

Sixteen pail privies and the above mentioned two midden privies were in use at the end of the year.

Housing.- Four Council, one private and twenty-nine Military Officers houses were completed during the year.

The remaining thirty-five houses on Zetland Road and twenty-two Military Officers houses on the Flatts Estate were in an advanced state of construction at the end of the year.

Land has been acquired at Green Lane which will accommodate approximately 177 houses.

Work has been commenced on roadwork and sewers in Hilton Road on the Green Lane Estate for the first forty-three houses.

Negotiations have been commenced to purchase a site in Newgate which will accommodate eight to ten dwellings.

The number of applicants on the Council's Housing List at the end of the year was 238, compared with a figure of 256 at the end of the previous year. This indicates that there is still an urgent need for new housing in the area.

PROVISION OF HOUSES BY LOCAL AUTHORITY.

	Situation	Bungalow 1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms	TOTAL
Pre. 1939.	Dunelm Square Barnard Castle U.D.C.	4	13	6	2	25 ^H
	Dunelm Square North Eastern Housing Assoc.	10	-	-	-	10
	Dawson Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	22	14	8	44
	Total Pre. 1939.	14	35	20	10	79
Post. 1939.	Victoria Road (Key Workers) Barnard Castle U.D.C.	-	-	12	-	12
	Zetland Road North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	20	28	6	54
	Montalbo Road Estate North Eastern Housing Assoc.	8	-	82	12	102
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	-	4	-	-	4
	Total Post. 1939.	8	24	122	18	172
In course of construction	GRAND TOTAL	22	59	142	28	251
	Zetland Road Extension North Eastern Housing Assoc.	6 Flats	6 Flats	-	-	-
			10	13	-	35

^H

This figure comprises 7 houses and 18 flats.

Section 11 Housing Act, 1936. - The Demolition Order which was reported in the 1951 report as being the subject of an Appeal was still in the hands of the County Court at the end of the year.

Sections 9, 11, 12 and 25 Housing Act, 1936. - One Closing Order under Section 12 and two Demolition Orders under Section 11 were served during the year.

No. of Clearance Area	Date Area Confirmed	No. of Houses in Area	No. of Occupiers	No. of Occupiers 31/12/52.	No. Demolished 31/12/52.	No. Vacant 31/12/52.
1 to 6	27/8/35	36	46	Nil	36	Nil
8	-do-	5	6	Nil	3	2
9	-do-	2	2	Nil	Nil	2
1 to 9		43	54	Nil	39	4
10	12/3/38	2	2	2	Nil	Nil
11	-do-	2	3	Nil	Nil	2
12	-do-	3	3	2	Nil	2
13	-do-	3	3	1	Nil	2
14	-do-	7	10	3	1	2
15	-do-	5	5	1	3	1
16	-do-	5	12	3	Nil	4
17	-do-	7	7	2	2	3
18	-do-	2	2	2	Nil	Nil
19	-do-	13	18	14	Nil	4
20	-do-	3	3	2	Nil	1
21	-do-	2	2	1	1	1
22	-do-	7	7	7	Nil	Nil
10 to 22		61	77	40	7	22
GRAND TOTAL		104	131	40	46	26

Demolition & Closing Orders. - The following is the position at the end of the year in regard to houses subject to Demolition and Closing Orders.

Demolition Orders 7. - Two houses are in process of demolition. Two are empty, two are occupied and one is the object of an Appeal.

Closing Orders. - Four premises are still occupied. One is in process of alteration with a view to the Order being removed.

Factories and Workshops - Factories Act, 1937 and 1948 - Part I.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	36	15	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	19	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers premises)	6	18	1
TOTAL ...	80	52	2

Cases in which Defects were found - Two (Both insufficient Sanitary Conveniences).

Part VIII of the Act - Outwork.- The August list from a local Glove Factory contains the names of five outworkers. All are resident in Barnard Castle, and are working under satisfactory conditions. One reported from a firm outside the area is working under satisfactory conditions.

Common Lodging House.- The registered keeper died and no application was received for the registration of another keeper.

Smoke Abatement.- No nuisances were observed nor were any complaints received.

Tents and Caravans.- Licences to station a trailer caravan on a building site and in another case to permit a caravan to remain for three months in a large yard within the town, were both granted during the year.

An appeal by the owner against conditions imposed under the Town and Country Planning Act, restricting camping to the periods 1st March to the 31st October in each year, on the proposed camping grounds near Red Well Inn, Harmire Road was heard during the year. The Minister subsequently upheld the conditions imposed.

Rodent Control.- A rodent operative is employed jointly with the Startforth and Barnard Castle Rural District Councils.

The Councils sewers, refuse tip and sewage works, three dwelling houses and seven business premises were treated. Seven of the above had two treatments and one a third during the year.

Major infestations were found at the refuse tip and sewage works.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Ice Cream.- There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the Town. The twenty-three persons registered to retail ice-cream receive their supplies from outside the district. Most ice-cream is wrapped at the place of manufacture.

Milk Retailers.- Eight retailers operate within the area, four of these being licensed to sell Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk. One retailer sells Tuberculin Tested Milk from his own farm.

Meat.- Slaughtering of animals for the Barnard Castle Urban, Rural Districts and Startforth Rural District takes place at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in Vere Road.

Ante mortem inspections of animals are carried out whenever possible.

Post Mortem inspections are made of all animals at the time of slaughter or as soon after as is practicable.

Inspection is made by the Sanitary Inspector, holiday and sickness duty being undertaken by the two Sanitary Inspectors of the Barnard Castle Rural District Council. All three officers hold the Meat and Foods Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

In January the carcase and organs of a steer were condemned by the Meat Inspector as being unfit for human consumption. Owing to the refusal of the owner to surrender this carcase voluntarily it was seized under Section 10, Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and brought before a Justice of the Peace who upheld the Meat Inspector's original decision.

In the following table it is interesting to note the decline in the number of animals found to be affected with Tuberculosis compared with the number for 1949 only three years ago.

Year	1949.	1952.
Total Cattle Killed	1298	1307
<u>T.B. Condemnations Only.</u>		
Whole Carcase	30	14
% of Total Kill	2.3%	1.07%
Part Carcase or Organ	118	71
Total Found to have T.B.	148	85
% of Total Kill	11.4%	6.5%

Carcase Inspected and Condemned.

1st January to 31st December, 1952.

	Cattle excluding Cows		Cows		Calves		Sheep and Lambs		Pigs		
	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	C.C.	Cas.	S.S.
Number Killed	978	70	150	109	-	151	4504	251	456	121	16
Number Inspected	978	70	150	109	-	151	4451	250	456	121	12
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.-</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	1	14	1	33	-	64	2	56	-	14	-
Carcase - some part condemned	218	31	40	49	-	5	44	61	12	37	-
Percentages of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	22.3	64.3	27.3	75.2	-	45.7	1.0	46.8	2.6	42.1	-
<u>Tuberculosis only.-</u>											
Whole carcase condemned	1	2	-	11	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Carcase - some part condemned	46	3	13	9	-	-	-	-	6	1	-
Percentages of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	4.8	7.1	8.7	18.3	-	-	-	-	1.5	2.5	-

Key to Diagram.-

C.C. - Animals from a Collecting Centre.

Cas. - Animals received as Casualties.

S.S. - Ministry of Food Self Supplying Scheme (Cottage Pigs).

Food Poisoning.- One case was notified in December. The case was that of an elderly lady who was taken ill some hours after partaking of a supper of fish and chips. There was insufficient evidence available to warrant a definite diagnosis of food poisoning.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

	Number of Informal written notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of nuisances abated after notice.
Dwelling Houses:			
Structural defects	15	7	15
Overcrowding	-	-	-
Lodging Houses	-	-	-
Deposits of refuse and manure	1	-	1
Water Closets	10	-	10
House drainage	14	6	14
Water Supply	4	4	3
Dustbins	6	-	6
Animals Improperly Kept	1	1	1
	<u>51</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>50</u>

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	559
Population (Registrar-General's Estimated figure - mid year 1952).	4,614
Number of inhabited houses	1,399
Rateable Value	£27,815
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	£102: 16: 7d.

I am indebted to the Curator of the Bowes Museum, Mr. Thomas Wake, for permission to include the following table.

Table showing RAINFALL in inches in 1952, compiled from the Bowes Museum.

Observation Station:	Bowes Museum.
Observer:	Thomas Wake, Curator and Secretary for the Trustees of the Bowes Museum.
Height of Gauge above Sea Level	550 feet.
<u>1952.</u>	<u>Ins.</u>
January	2.72
February	.42
March	1.41
April	1.09
May	1.91
June	1.15
July	.72
August	2.28
September	3.53
October	3.40
November	2.32
December	2.14
Total	<u>23.09</u>
Average 5 yrs. 1948-52.	30.35
	23.09 1952
	37.84 1951
	34.04 1950
	26.29 1949
	30.49 1948

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

		Total	Male	Female
<u>Live Births</u>	Legitimate } 70 {	63	29	34
	Illegitimate }	7	2	5

Live Birth Rate (Adjusted) - 16.0 per 1,000 home population. Corresponding for the 160 smaller towns (Resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census) 15.5.

		Total	Male	Female
<u>Still Births</u>	Legitimate } 4 {	3	2	1
	Illegitimate }	1	-	1

Still Birth Rate - (per 1,000 home population) -0.87. Corresponding rate for 160 smaller towns - 0.36.

	Total	Male	Female
<u>Deaths.</u>	98	57	41

Death Rate (Adjusted) - 16.7 per 1,000 home population.
for 160 smaller towns - 11.2.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year.-

	Male	Female
Total	-	-
Legitimate	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age.-

	Male	Female
Total	-	-
Legitimate	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-

Causes of Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Cancer (all types)	4	9	13
Vascular Lesions of nervous system	10	9	19
Coronary disease, angina	8	1	9
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other heart disease	17	13	30
Other Circulatory Disease	2	4	6
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	4	10
All other accidents (other than motor vehicles accidents).	2	-	2
Suicide	2	-	2
	<u>57</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>98</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was again low, only twenty-one cases being notified compared with forty-three for the previous year and one hundred and ninety-six in 1950.

Anterior Poliomyelitis.- This was a mild case in a girl aged two years and ten months, and involved muscles of the right and left legs. She subsequently made a good recovery with some slight weakness in the right leg which is still improving under treatment.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis and Food Poisoning)
during the year 1952.

	No.	Admitted To Hospital	Diagnosis Not Confirmed	Total Cases
Scarlet Fever	4	-	-	4
Acute Primary Pneumonia	5	-	-	5
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	1	-	1
Measles	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	9	-	-	9
Dysentery	1	-	-	1
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	1	-

Analysis of the total cases (confirmed) in age groups.

	Under one Year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Notifiable Diseases (confirmed) during recent years.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Scarlet Fever	7	2	27	2	1	5	4
Diphtheria	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	50	60	2	147	27	-
Whooping Cough	-	18	9	5	45	4	9
Anterior Polio-myelitis	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	1	1	-	-	-
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	2	2	1	3	5
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	2	2	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

Diphtheria Immunisation.- According to the records received at the County Health Department there was a slight increase compared with the previous year in the number of children aged under 15, who received a primary course of immunisation (70 in 1950, 50 in 1951).

Responsibility for the provision of facilities for immunisation and for the maintenance of propaganda now rests with the County Health Department. Facilities are provided, at the child welfare centre for the immunisation of children under five and by private practitioners for children of any age.

Leaflets drawing attention to the need for immunisation are distributed by post at the age of eight months and twelve months and to encourage re-enforcing doses at the age of our years nine months. The County Health Visitor visits children who have not been immunised.

In addition, advice, and reminders are given to parents by the Assistant School Medical Officer at the Annual medical inspection of schools.

In April, by arrangement with the County Education Authority, two sessions for immunisation were held in the Barnard Castle Infants School. At these sessions ten children were given a primary course of immunisation and ten were given reinforcing injections.

Diphtheria Immunisation Return for the year ended 31st December, 1952.

Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1952.

Age at date of Final injection.		Total under 15.
0 - 4 yrs.	5 - 14 yrs.	
50	6	56

Number given reinforcing injection - 41.

Estimated Percentage of Mid - 1951. Child Population in the Urban District who have been immunised up to 31st December, 1952.

Under 5 years.

37%

5 - 15 years.

71%

It was not possible to use the estimated mid - 1952 figure of the Child Population since this was not supplied by the Registrar General.

Tuberculosis.

No new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year.

New Cases

Deaths

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 and Over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Staff.- The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time officer, a grant is made towards his salary by the Ministry of Health.

The Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector are whole-time officers. Part of their salaries are paid by the Urban District Council and portions by the Ministries of Health and Transport.

A County Health Visitor resides in the town and part of her time is allocated to the duties of County School Nurse.

Hospitals.- There are no special hospitals for Tuberculosis, Maternity of Children in the district.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, control of the Infectious Disease Hospitals formerly administered by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board, was taken over by the South West Durham Hospital Management Committee. Cases of infectious diseases requiring hospital treatment are sent to one of these hospitals.

The Richardson Memorial Convalescent Home, which was taken over during the war under the Emergency Medical Services Hospitals Scheme, is now used as a Convalescent Holiday Home for patients from hospitals in the County of Durham, North Riding of Yorkshire and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.- I am indebted to the County Medical Officer's Ambulance Department, Durham, for the following statements relating to the working of the Ambulance Service during the year.

TABLE A.

	Bishop Auckland (No. 14) Control Area.	Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts.
Ambulance Controls	1	Nil
Clerk-Telephonists	4	Nil
Ambulance Depots	5	2
Ambulances	15	2
Sitting-case cars	Nil	Nil
Driver-attendants	38	4

¶

Barnard Castle Urban and Rural Districts form part of this Control Area and the details given under this head include the details also shown separately for the Urban and Rural Districts. The work shown in Table B below is that undertaken by all vehicles in the Control Area in connection with patients residing in the areas shown.

TABLE B.

Area	No. of Journeys made.	No. of Patients Carried			Total Mileage Covered
		Stretcher Cases	Sitting Cases	Total	
Barnard Castle U.D. & R.D.	1,006	494	3,467	3,961	62,846

The Ambulance Control for the Area is situated at Bishop Auckland and is staffed over the 24 hours by a team of 4 clerk-telephonists.

Nursing Arrangements.- Under Section 25 of the Nation Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of a Home Nursing Service became the responsibility of Local Health Authorities as from the 5th July, 1948. By an agreement concluded with the Durham County Nursing Association, the Durham County Council have delegated general supervision of the County Medical Officer. This arrangement has necessitated the integration and co-ordination by the County Nursing Association of the service formerly provided by individual district nursing associations and the transfer of administration to the County Association.

The arrangements whereby the domiciliary midwifery service in certain areas of the County was provided on an agency basis by district nursing associations are continued under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, with the County Nursing Association acting as the agent.

Both services are now available free of charge.

Services are provided for this area and for the Startforth District by two nurses resident in the town. General, midwifery and maternity cases are nursed.

There is a small Nursing Home at 32, Bede Road (Proprietress, Hilda Smurthwaite, S.R.N., S.C.M.) Chiefly for maternity cases.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

An Infant Welfare Clinic and a School Clinic are held on alternate weeks at the Trinity Methodist Schoolroom, Barnard Castle under the administration of the County Council.

Area Health Sub-Committee.- The Committee of which three members of the Council are members, met on four occasions during the year and the County Medical Officer's reports were considered.

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. F. L. White and to Mr. E. Dixon, Sanitary Inspector, for their assistance in compiling this report.

I am, Mrs. Rutter and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. G. PALEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.